



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

North Central Division

GREAT LAKES LEVELS

UPDATE NO. 26

1 SEPTEMBER 1987

The middle Great Lakes again received some heavy rainfall during the month of August. Preliminary reports indicate that the Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie basins received between one and a half times and twice the average amounts of rain for August. Some localities received record amounts of precipitation. With much of the ground now saturated in these basins, continuation of the rainy weather could readily affect the lake levels. The Lake Superior basin received near average rainfall while the Lake Ontario basin rainfall was significantly below average.

All of the Great Lakes, except Lake Superior, are in their seasonal decline. As is apparent on the attached Bulletin, Lakes Michigan-Huron and Erie experienced almost none of the usual summer rise in levels this year, due to the sparseness of rainfall in the past nine months. This has given us some relief from the extremely high levels we were having. However, the middle Great Lakes are still more than a foot above their long-term mean levels and precautions during the coming fall and spring storm seasons are advisable. The Bulletin shows the latest projection of lake levels for the next six months.

The International Joint Commission (IJC) is continuing to direct the outflows for Lakes Superior and Ontario. With Lake Superior near its long-term mean level, which is generally considered the optimum condition, and Lakes Michigan-Huron still quite high, the Lake Superior outflow is at the minimum rate allowed by the regulation plan, that is, 55,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). The Lake Ontario level is below its long-term mean and the outflows are as prescribed by Regulation Plan 1958-D.

In view of the improved situation, the Advance Measures Program to construct preventive works will be continued only to the extent of completing pending projects as quickly as possible. There are five such projects underway which were identified in previous updates.

The Corps is also authorized to assist local communities in responding to actual flooding situations, to supplement maximum state and local efforts. Requests for assistance should be directed through local and state disaster assistance agencies. For Great Lakes basin technical assistance or information, please contact one of the following Corps of Engineers District Offices:

For New York, Penn. & Ohio
Colonel Daniel R. Clark
Cdr, Buffalo District
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, NY 14207-3199
(716) 876-5454-Ext. 2201

For Mich., Minn. & Wisc.
Colonel Robert F. Harris
Cdr, Detroit District
P. O. Box 1027
Detroit, MI 48231-1027
(313) 226-6440 or
226-6441

For Ill. & Indiana
LTC Jess J. Franco
Cdr, Chicago District
219 S. Dearborn St.
6th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-1797
(312) 353-6400

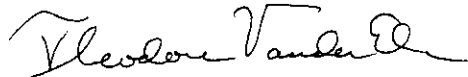
You can still get the "Help Yourself" brochure from the District Offices listed above or from this office: North Central Division, 536 South Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1592, telephone: (312) 353-6364.

Near-shore wave warnings are provided by various National Weather Service Offices for certain portions of the Great Lakes. Information can normally be heard on the National Weather Service's local weather radio broadcasts.

The Corps of Engineers' "Self Help" program of distributing sandbags, sand and plastic sheeting to threatened communities is continuing. In view of the current and predicted lake levels, it is our intention to continue the program through next spring. Call your local or state disaster assistance agencies to obtain materials and assistance under this program.

On the IJC's Great Lakes water level study, progress continues on the development of study plans. Copies of the IJC's Lake Levels Study Directive are available from both the U.S. and Canadian Section Offices of the IJC.

I wish to assure you that these updates will continue to accompany the Monthly Bulletin until all the lakes return to safe levels.



THEODORE VANDER ELS
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding